

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 025289

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, A1

SUBJECT: ALBANIA

FOR WENICK

1. FOLLOWING IS IN RESPONSE TO WENICK-MATUSEK LETTER
AND CAN BE DRAWN UPON IN YOUR DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR
FERRARA.

2. HAVE NOT THE ALBANIAN PURGES BEEN IN A SENSE SIMILAR
TO TH OSE OF STALIN'S ("OLD BOSHEVIKS") WITH HOXHA GETTING
RID OF MANY OF HIS "OLD PARTISANS" BECAUSE AS LONG-TIME
COLLEAGUES THEY DARED PUT FORWARD THEIR OWN IDEAS? HAVE
NOT MINISTERS SUCH AS BALLUKU AND THEODOSI BEEN PURGED
BECAUSE DURING THEIR LONG TENURE THEY EVOLVED INTO INDE-
PENDENT POTENTATES RUNNING THEIR MINISTRIES AS PERSONAL
BAILIWICKS?

3. IN THIS CONNECTION IT WOULD BE ENLIGHTENING TO KNOW
WHETHER THE NEWCOMERS HAVE ANY TRAIT IN COMMON, E.G., ARE
HEKURAN ISAI, PALI MISKA, LLAMBI GEGPRIFTI, QIRJAKO
MIHALI, AND OTHERS YOUNG, MIDDLE-AGED, OR OLD. GHEGS OR
TOSKA, FORMER PARTISANS, TECHNICIANS, APPARATCHIKS,
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INTELLECTUALS, ETC.?

4. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CHANGE IN THE PECKING ORDER OF THE LEADERSHIP? HAS KAPO, CARCANI, ALIA, OR ISAI BECOME CLOSER TO HOXHA OR SHEHU, AND HOW POWERFUL DO THEY SEEM TO BE?

5. LAST DECEMBER A HIGH-LEVEL MILITARY DELEGATION UNDER CHIEF OF STAFF LLAKAJ VISITED PEKING, FOLLOWING A HIGH-LEVEL ECONOMIC DELEGATION UNDER CARCANI IN JUNE. COULD THESE VISITS SIGNIFY CHINESE WILLINGNESS TO MEET ALBANIAN REQUESTS FOR GREATER ECONOMIC/MILITARY AID? IS THERE STILL EVIDENCE OF ALBANIAN DISSATISFACTION WITH CHINA?

6. SEVERAL REFERENCES OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS MENTION "PEOPLE'S SELF-DEFENSE VOLUNTEER FORCE", WHICH SEEMS SIMILAR TO GUERRILLA-TYPE UNITS ESTABLISHED IN YUGOSLAVIA AND ROMANIA FOLLOWING THE 1968 INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. COULD ONE SUPPOSE THAT AMONG REASONS FOR DEFMIN PURGES HAS BEEN REGULAR ARMY'S OPPOSITION TO FORMATION OF THESE UNITS?

7. DURING DECEMBER QAMIL PODA SURFACED AS COMMANDER OF ALBANIAN NAVY, PRESUMABLY RELINQUISHING POST OF CHIEF OF NORTHERN COASTAL COMMAND BASE. WOULD THIS INDICATE PURGE WAS LIMITED TO DEFENSE MINISTRY?

8. RECENTLY TAHIR MINXHOZI, A CC MEMBER, WAS MENTIONED AS SECRETARY OF PARTY UNIT IN DEFENSE MINISTRY. THIS UNIT WAS NEVER IDENTIFIED BEFORE. IS THIS SIMILAR TO THE SOVIET MPA, I.E. ONE OF PARTY'S NEW LEVERS OF CONTROL OVER DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT?

9. JANUARY 26 ZERI I POPULLIT ARTICLE PRAISING STALIN INDIRECTLY ATTACKED YUGOSLAV "REVISIONISM" AND TITO FOR LABELING A "CERTAIN NATIONALITY" (PROBABLY ALBANIAN) AS "IRREDENTIST" AND "STALINIST". KOSOVO PARTY HEAD BAKALI PREVIOUSLY ATTACKED "ALBANIAN IRREDENTISM". DOES THIS MARK A REVERSAL IN ALBANO-YUGOSLAV RAPPROCHEMENT? HOW STRONG HAS BEEN YUGOSLAV "TITOIST" INFLUENCE AMONG CONFIDENTIAL

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ALBANIANS?

10. RECENT REPORTING REFERS TO FEVERISH AND OSTENTATIOUS CONSTRUCTION OF BUNKERS AND SHELTERS ON ALBANIAN SEASHORE AND AROUND TIRANA. APART FROM ITS UNMISTAKABLE MESSAGE TO THE POPULATION, WHAT IS THE RATIONALE FOR THIS ACTIVITY? INGERSOLL

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